

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, BL

SUBJ: MINERS OFFICIALLY ACCEPT GOB WAGE OFFER

REF: LA PAZ 1308

1. IN LETTER PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT BANZER EVENING OF MARCH 14 THE MINERS FEDERATION (FSTMB) OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED THE GOB'S WAGE OFFER AND REQUESTED THAT IT BE APPLIED RETROACTIVE TO DECEMBER 6. IN ACCEPTING THE SETTLEMENT THE FSTMB STATED THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE SEEKING GREATER ECONOMIC BENEFITS IN FACE OF THE CONSTANT INCREASE IN THE COST OF LIVING. A COMIBOL SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT THE SETTLEMENT INVOLVED A 10 PERCENT INCREASE FOR WORKERS ON CONTRACT, A 7.175 PERCENT ACROSS- THE- BOARD WAGE INCREASE AND A FOURTEENTH MONTH BONUS.

2. THE MARCH 10 ISSUE OF THE HIGHLY RESPECTED ECONOMIC NEWSLETTER IPE CALCULATED THAT WITH THIS SETTLEMENT THE MINERS' TOTAL POST-DEVALUATION ECONOMIC PACKAGE AMOUNTS TO 56.25 PERCENT AS FOLLOWS:

COMPENSATION AND FAMILY BONUSES 22.99 PERCENT

SALARY AND CONTRACT INCREASES 9.63 PERCENT

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FOURTEENTH MONTH BONUS (CALCULATED ON
THREE MONTHS PRODUCTIVITY) 9.50 PERCENT

INCREASED COMMISSARY LOSSES TO COMIBOL 14.40 PERCENT

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE HIGH INCREASE CALCULATED FOR COMMISSARY LOSSES THIS EVALUATION CORRESPONDS WITH EMBASSY'S CALCULATIONS AS REPORTED REFTEL. FSTMB CONFLICTS SECRETARY GARCIA TOLD LABATT THAT IPE FIURES WERE IDENTICAL WITH MINERS' CALCULATIONS, BUT THAT HE DOUBTED THAT GOB WOULD PUBLICIZE THEM BECAUSE OF THEIR POSSIBLE AFFECT ON OTHER LABOR SECTORS. COMIBOL DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS OVIEDO CONFIRMED TO LABATT THAT THOSE FIGURES WERE REALISTIC; HOWEVER, HE INSISTED THAT THE INCREASED COMMISSARY LOSS WAS NOT CONSIDERED A WAGE INCREASE FOR THE MINERS BUT RATHER AN ADDITIONAL LABOR COST TO COMIBOL.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE MINERS STILL MUST NEGOTIATE WAGE SETTLEMENTS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THIS SETTLEMENT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES REMOVES THE LAST MAJOR DEVALUATION- CREATED LABOR THREAT TO THE GOB. SIGLO XX UNION OFFICIALS REFUSED TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT; HOWEVER, COMIBOL, MINLABOR AND FSTMB OFFICIALS FEEL CONFIDENT THEY WILL ACCEPT AGREEMENT.

SIRACUSA

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